

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
PRODUCTION/ EXPORT OF CASH CROPS
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production and export of cash crops especially ginger, pepper and cardamom have decreased during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the production and export of cash crops in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.129 FOR ANSWER ON 1ST AUGUST, 2006 REGARDING "PRODUCTION/EXPORT OF CASH CROPS"

(a) & (b) The production and export of major cash crops has generally been increasing except in case of pepper and cardamom (large) in which case production has declined in 2005-06 as is evident from the data given below. The reason for this decline is unfavorable climatic condition and lower productivity.

Production

(Quantity: Metric Tonne)
Commodity 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06

Cashew kernels 53500 544000 573000
Spices
a) Ginger 341510 362770 N.A.
b) Pepper 62000 70000 45000
c) cardamom
i) small 11580 11415 12540
ii) large 6154 5773 5185
Tea@ 878650 906840 930850\$
Coffee 270500 275500 274000#
Tobacco 221670 243350 228250

@As per revised figures furnished by Tea Board based on the documents received from Central Excise Authority

\$estimated

provisional

Export

(Quantity: Metric Tonne / Value: Rupees crores)
Commodity 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06
Quan- Value Quan- Value Quan- Value
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Cashew kernels 100828 1804.43 126667 2709.24 114143 2514.86

Spices

a) Ginger 4696 22.75 13000 59.50 7250 40.76

b) Pepper 16635 142.77 14150 121.40 16700 140.50

c) cardamom

i) small 757 36.92 650 23.90 875 27.01

ii) large 924 12.34 950 11.34 1025 10.60

Tea 183070 1636.99 205810 1924.71 181060 1631.60@

Coffee 232684 1158.45 211765 1224.67 201517# 1509.71

Tobacco 150982 1175.63 162933 1362.18 165882 1404.72

(Source: Commodity Boards/Cashew Export Promotion Council) @ Estimated #Provisional

(c) The Commodity Board like Spices, Tobacco, Tea, Coffee and Rubber Board and Export Promotion Council for Cashew have a number of schemes to help the growers and exporters to increase their production and exports. They provide assistance for improving farming practices, post harvest technology, marketing assistance and also participation in overseas trade fairs to keep the exporter aware of the requirements of the markets. The government has also introduced transport subsidy @ of Rs. 2 per Kg. for internal transport and Rs.5 per Kg. to meet international freight charges to help Pepper exporters as a one time measure. A new scheme for giving incentive for production of Orthodox tea, a subsidy of 1.50 per Kg. for export of Tea through ICD (Inland Container Depot) Amingaon and geographical indication registration for Darjeeling tea are some of the steps taken for tea. The Government has also removed the cess on export of cash crops like Tobacco, Spices, Coffee, APEDA scheduled products and Marine products. Also, interest relief scheme providing for 5% interests relief to small Coffee growers on working capital/ crop loans availed by them from financial institutions was implemented during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.